MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 DECEMBER 1981

Israel

U.S.-Israeli Strategic Cooperation -- Jerusalem radio's Arabic service reported that Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat said that since both the United States and Israel want the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation, it has not actually been canceled. In a similar vein, Jerusalem radio said that according to Israeli political circles, the Israeli-U.S. strategic cooperation agreement has not been canceled because the United States "does not consider it canceled." However, in remarks broadcast by the radio, MK Moshe Arens said it is doubtful if the agreement will be enforced in the future. Asserting that it is now clear to Israel that the agreement does not serve U.S. interests, he added that, this being the case, both countries will be better off without it.

Sinai Withdrawal -- MA'ARIV reported that during the 20 December Cabinet session Prime Minister Menahan Begin said there should be "no doubt" that Israel will complete the evacuation of Sinai as scheduled in April 1982.

Eban Criticism of Begin -- In a commentary published by the Jerusalem POST, MK Abba Eban criticized Prime Minister Begin for inflicting "intellectual humiliation on Israel and the Jewish people with his unrestrained tirade" at the U.S. ambassador on 20 December.

Ministerial Defense Committee -- Jerusalem television reported that Prime Minister Begin established a defense committee comprising himself and 10 Cabinet ministers representing all coalition factions. While the television said Deputy Prime Minister David Levi would be infuriated by his exclusion from the committee, an earlier report by IDF radio listed Levi as a committee member.

Radio on U.S.-Soviet Contacts -- According to Jerusalem radio, U.S. envoy Philip Habib met secretly in Amman with Soviet roving Ambassador Mikhail Sytenko during their recent tours of the region. Citing Arab sources, the radio said the two diplomats discussed a deal whereby the United States would not oppose the establishment of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union, in return for which the latter would not prevent an improvement in U.S.-Syrian relations.

Syria

Al-Asad Tour -- SANA reported that during further talks in Riyadh, President Hafiz al-Asad and top Saudi officials discussed the application of Israeli law to the Golan Heights. According to a Damascus radio commentary, Al-Asad's tour of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states reflects the "dire need for a single Arab viewpoint" on the diplomatic battle over the Golan issue. The radio commended the UN Security Council's rejection of Israel's decision, saying it constitutes a positive basis for an "active Arab move" prior to the forthcoming UN Security Council session that will consider international measures against Israel.

According to Kuwait radio, Al-Asad arrived in Kuwait on 23 December. WAKH reported that Al-Asad will also visit Bahrain and Qatar during his gulf tour; according to WAM, the Syrian leader will subsequently visit the UAE.

Golan Demonstration -- AFP reported that Ba'th Party officials led a large crowd of demonstrators near the cease-fire line in Al-Qunaytirah to protest Israel's decision to "annex" the Golan Heights.

Military Talks With PLO -- The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir held talks in Damascus with top Syrian military officials to discuss how to confront and coordinate against any possible Israeli attack.

Death of Ba'th Leader -- Citing official sources. AFP reported that Mamduh Haddad, leader of the "avant-garde" section of the Ba'th Party, committed suicide when police arrived at his home in Homs to arrest him on corruption charges. However, AFP noted that other reports said Haddad was murdered.

Lebanon

Jerusalem radio's English service reported an accusation by Christian Militia Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad that Palestinian guerrillas kidnapped seven villagers from the Christian enclave after his forces had detained some guerrillas who were planning an attack. According to a latter Jersalem radio report, Haddad threatened to take measures against the PLO unless it relesed the seven.

Iran

Security Situation -- Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas assassinated the Majlis deputy and governor of Shahr Kord when the latter were visiting a shrine in Mashhad, Tehran radio reported. During an interview reported by the radio, Islamic Revolution Guards Commander Mohsen Reza'i asserted that 250 high-ranking 'hypocrites' have been arrested over the past month and have provided the authorities with much intelligence information. Citing KEYHAN, AFP reported that 14 monarchists were executed on 21 December after being convicted of participation in an attempted coup in July 1980. Those executed included Reza Haj Marzban, an associate of former Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar, and Zia' Modarres, the secretary general of the late shah's Pastakwiz party.

Opposition Group -- AFP reported that the National Democratic Front of Iran, a group of progressive intellectuals formed after the 1979 Iranian revolution, announced it would join the National Resistance Council founded by former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi.

Clashes in Kordestan -- According to the clandestine Voice of Iranian Kordestan radio, 500 Iranian troops have been killed or wounded in fierce fighting over the past 15 days with Kurdish Democratic Party forces in the Baneh and Sar Dasht region.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Revolution Guards commander in Gilan-e Gharb announced that 2,000 Iraqis were killed over the past 12 days during an Iranian offensive in the Siah Kuh region, Tehran radio reported. Iraq also lost 15 tanks, 5 aircraft and 1 helicopter, he said, adding that the Iranian offensive forced the Iraqis to divert troops to the region from As-Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk. The daily Iranian Joint Staff communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, said fighting continued in the Gilan-e Gharb region as Iranian units pushed back the Iraqis. It said 325 Iraqis were killed or wounded in the fighting. On the other hand, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique transmitted by INA, said Iraqi forces moved against the "collapsing" Iranian troops.

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DETAILS OF 21 DEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION

LD22101[illegible]bul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] The general session of the DRA Council of Ministers was chaired by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand this morning in the Council of Ministers headquarters.

The session began with the playing of the DRA national anthem, after which Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers, delivered an opening statement. Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said: This is the second general session of the DRA Council of Ministers since the enforcement of the law of the DRA Council of Ministers. The session is held, in accordance with a previously drafted plan, at a time when the Seventh Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee -- in the context of the important statement by Babrak Karmal, general secretary and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council -- has once again assessed the policy of the party and of our republican government and approved important documents in the sphere of national policy and a message to the tribes of the country.

The Seventh Plenum of the party Central Committee, proposed by the Central Committee Politburo, anticipated the need to convene a full conference of the PDPA to approve a plan of action for the near future. According to this plan, the practical policy and activity of the party and government toward the construction and consolidation of party organizations, social organizations and the organs of state administration will be organized in a better form, and socioeconomic changes will be implemented in the interest of the broad masses of the people.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand added: Another important event at this moment in the political life of our country is the visit of a party-government delegation to the People's Republic of Bulgaria, led by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The recent meeting between Babrak Karmal and Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in Moscow and the award of the order of Khorshyd-e Azadi to Comrade Brezhnev on the occasion of the 75th birthday of this outstanding contemporary personality and great friend of the people of Afghanistan, is of extraordinary importance.

After recalling the major tasks facing the government during the winter months, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said: We can only succeed in solving important questions and in rendering constructive and fruitful work when the level of activity of the ministries and departments -- particularly the ministers and heads of departments -- and their feelings of responsibility are enhanced. They must not be satisfied with merely implementing ordinary works, but should (?change) the methods and level of their work and display a spirit of search, initiative and renewal. When organizing activities, those principles should be followed which have, in general, arisen from the interests of government ministries and departments and the establishments under their administration and from the interests and policies of the party and government.

Next, the agenda of the session was read by 'Abdolmajid Sarboland, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers. The agenda was put to the vote and was unanimously approved.

In accordance with the agenda, Finance Minister 'Abdol Wakil, [words indistinct] account and work on the budget for 1980-81.

After this, 'Abol Wahab Safi, minister of justice and DRA attorney general presented a detailed and comprehensive report on addendums to laws and regulations and the charters of some government ministries, departments and establishments.

In the second part of the session, the Council of Ministers discussed draft resolutions on (?closing) the account and the work of the budget for 1980-81, and the financial policy of the country. They also discussed each of the addendums to laws and regulations.

The charter of one of the government enterprises was read by 'Abdolmajid Sarboland, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, which was discussed, affirmed and unanimously approved.

It was decided that the approved provisions and charter should be published in the official gazette and the appendices to laws should be submitted to the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium for final approval.

The provisions approved by the Council of Ministers are as follows:

1. Provision for the organization of the work of the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education;
2. Provision for the organization of the work of the Ministry of Water and Power;
3. Provision for the organization of the work of the Ministry of Commerce;
4. Provision for the organization of the work of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform;
5. Provision for the organization of the work of the Ministry of Education and Training;
6. Provision for the organization of the work of the Ministry of Transportation and Tourism;
7. Provision for professional teaching cadres in schools and vocational education establishments;
8. Provision for the use of water in agriculture;
9. Appendix No 2 to provisions for the expenditure of fuel and oil for vehicles;
10. A charter for the institute for assistance, trade and friendship.

Also, Appendix No 11 to the income tax law and Appendix No 1 to the law on telephones were approved by the Council of Ministers during the (?alterations) to the above-mentioned laws.

In conclusion, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers, delivered a closing speech.

He said: In today's session of the Council of Ministers, reports were heard on two important subjects. First, the closing account of the 1980-81 budget was assessed. In effect, this was not only a report by the Ministry of Finance but it is also considered to be a report by all ministries and government departments.

The economic activities of ministries and government departments are reflected in the closing account of the state budget. This indicates that a large number of ministries and governments have made use of the details [word indistinct] issued to them.

Pointing to the DRA budget for 1980-81, the chairman of the Council of Ministers said: The financial aid given by the Soviet Union is considerable and we are grateful for that. In addition to the fact that the major part of the income was maintained last year from the sale of natural gas to the Soviet Union at an increased price, the portion of Soviet financial aid in the government budget totals more than 5 billion afghanis, from which 18 percent of all government expenditure was (?financed).

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand added: The time has come to prepare and organize the budget for 1981-82. I draw your profound attention in this regard and ask you to prepare the plans and realistic indicators of the ministries and government departments in accordance with the (?national) conditions of the country.

Speaking about the preparation of laws and provisions, the chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers said: One important aspect of the new development stage of the April Revolution, whose third anniversary we are approaching, is the consolidation of revolutionary legality by the ministries, government departments, establishments and officials in charge, and the lawful approach to all issues and the accomplishment of tasks with initiative according to laws and provisions.

The Council of Ministers session ended with the DRA anthem.

PDPA RESOLUTION ON NATIONALITIES, TRIBES

LD210046 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] The Seventh PDPA Central Committee Plenum was convened in the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council by the opening speech by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

At the third part of the seventh plenary session, which was chaired by Babrak Karmal, the draft of the seventh plenum resolution was unanimously adopted.

Here is the text of the resolution of the Seventh Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, entitled: "Address of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government to All Nationalities and Tribes of the DRA," read by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. The Address of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government to All Nationalities and Tribes of the DRA.

Dear compatriots, including Pashtuns, Tadzhiks, Uzbeks, Turkmen, Hazaras, Baluchis, Nuristanis and all other national minorities residing in our country, the united, free, independent and nonaligned Afghanistan:

The victorious April Revolution took place for the prosperity and progress of the beloved and persecuted homeland of ours; for the well-being and blossoming of the culture of all nationalities and tribes residing in Afghanistan and for all sons of the country.

The gains of the revolution belong to all the people of Afghanistan, irrespective of their birthplace or their affiliation to nationalities and fraternal tribes residing in our united homeland -- the beloved homeland.

With the blessing of the April Revolution, particularly its new development stage we officially announce for the first time in the history of our country, equal political rights for all nationalities and tribes in the country.

Our party, the PDPA, is the only political power in our country which has always stood relentlessly against unjust and discriminatory national policies of the past exploitive regimes which produced discord, hatred, cruelty, atrocities and inequality among the nationalities and tribes of the country, and which demanded their removal.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, even during the domination of the Zahir Shah regime, demanded in Parliament an end to atrocities against nationalities and tribes residing in the country and the restoration of genuine equality of rights for them.

All of you, subjects of the DRA, are equal in the law without consideration of affiliation to the nationalities and fraternal and equal tribes of Afghanistan. This right of yours is embodied and approved in the fundamental legal documents of our country -- the Basic Principles of the DRA. This right of yours has been guaranteed by law and will be safeguarded by the government, and no one will be allowed to trample on it.

The party and the government will relentlessly and constantly implement the democratic land reforms which are in the interests of the peasants and agricultural workers without consideration of their nationality and tribal affiliation. We will give water and land to the peasants. This water and land will only belong to those who will work it, not to those who make use of it for their further enrichment and further poverty of others.

Only the April Revolution has provided the necessary conditions and preliminaries for the fundamental enhancing of the life of millions of the peasant masses and the realization of their longtime desires for freedom, justice, land and water for all.

The party and government have embarked on a series of broad actions for enhancing the financial condition of the toilers comprising the various nationalities and tribes of the country.

The wages of workers and employees have been increased. The broad program of house construction is being realized. Serious attention has been given to progress in the fields of people's training and education, and public health; the struggle against illiteracy is underway.

With the measures taken, publications are now printed in the languages of Uzbeki, Turkmeni and Baluchi; and preparation has been made for the publication of newspapers in the languages of the various nationalities in the capitals of these provinces, which in the past have had no such publications.

Teaching in schools and radio broadcasts in the languages of Afghanistan's nationalities have commenced. The culture of the nationalities residing in Afghanistan has been introduced and preached through radio, television and the press. The pillars of the new system of training and education, in consideration of the interests of the nationalities and tribes who were deprived of these rights in the past, have been created and will be expanded and extended.

The PDPA Central Committee and the revolutionary DRA Government regard it to be the correct time to take new measures, in addition to those already accomplished, for the realization of equal rights and cooperation between nationalities and tribes of our country. For this purpose a broad system of economic, social and political measures will be formulated and realized.

In the political field, the party and government are determined to follow relentlessly their policy of increasing political and social activities of all nationalities, without exception, to secure and extend their representation in the provincial jirgas, which are predicted in the draft of the local organs of state power and administration; to secure and extend their representation in party organizations, government organs, executive committees, provincial committees of the NFF and in all NFF social organizations, and in all respected and authoritative bodies representing these nationalities and tribes.

In those regions where the majority of the inhabitants are affiliated to a nationality or a specific tribe -- the leadership, and in proportion to it the required seats in the government organs and social organizations -- will belong to the delegates of that nationality or tribe. Meanwhile, the civil rights, traditions, historic, religious and cultural values of those nationalities and tribes who form the majority in the above regions will be guaranteed by law and will be observed in a proper manner.

Under the required conditions, a fundamental review will be made in the administrative organization of the country on the bases of nationalities and residing tribes, for the purpose of a fundamental solution of national issues.

Regarding economy, the party and government will devote their attention to the speedy development of the regions of those nationalities and tribes who, under present conditions, are the least developed economically, The necessary measures will be taken in regions where there are nationalities and various tribes to facilitate the sale of their traditional products and to stabilize just prices for them.

In education we will guarantee and secure the preservation and development of all praiseworthy and valuable elements in the cultural and traditional heritage of all nationalities and tribes. The right of education for nationalities in their mother tongue will be given in accordance with free choice.

The party and the government will take all the necessary measures for the improvement of languages and accents of the nationalities and tribes of Afghanistan for the preservation of calligraphy, history and their culture, with the cooperation of all nationalities and tribes for the purpose of their all-round development.

The PDPA Central Committee and the Government of the DRA announce that they will relentlessly and persistently put into action the national policy which is officially stated in this announcement.

We are confident that the nationalities and tribes of Afghanistan will extend their help and necessary support in this respect to the party and their national government.

Dear compatriots: U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and reactionary regimes of some countries of the region are striving with all their power to eliminate the historic gains of our revolution and to stop the process of building a new society in Afghanistan.

There were and are those who invoked and are invoking a fratricidal war in Afghanistan; who are doing everything to sow discord among the nationalities and tribes of the country to make them hostile to each other.

They, for the purpose of fulfilling the evil objective of imperialism and hegemonism, are striving with all possible means to weaken and destroy the principles of the sacred religion of Islam in our country so as to deprive our people of their common spiritual values. They, by use of various counterrevolutionary bands, are shedding the blood of patriotic Muslims, are threatening religious personalities and murdering them, and are setting fire to mosques and teaching centers.

Noble compatriots: It is your patriotic and national duty to join the ranks of the brave armed forces of the country and to take an active part for its strengthening and to give them all necessary help and assistance for the accomplishment of their noble mission, that is, the defense of our homeland, beloved Afghanistan.

We recognize Islam in Afghanistan as a sacred religion which condemns inequality, usury and exploitation of man by man.

Hence, we invite you to unite and fight resolutely against the enemies of Islam.

In order to live and work with a peaceful mind and to make our beloved homeland prosper and blossom, you need peace. We are opposed to man fighting man.

You, as individuals enjoying the full rights of our country, must more actively and more bravely learn the methods of government administration and take part in the tasks of local organs of state power, whether in the capital or in the provinces, districts and those subdistricts where the nationalities and tribes residing in our country form the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants.

Your assistance is valuable in the mobilization and regulation of work in national economic institutions, whether workshops, factories, mines or irrigation systems, which are destroyed and disrupted by the counterrevolutionaries.

Those who in our country are worth respectability, commendation and pride are those who with their work and struggle are constructing our country and are supporting the policy of their party and revolutionary government -- the guarantor of the prosperity and tranquillity of the broad masses of the toilers.

The PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government believe that there is no other way for a just and democratic solution of the issues of the nationalities and tribes of Afghanistan, except the way which is stated in this announcement. Only with joined, united ranks can we achieve resolute victory, defend our freedom and restore peace.

The party and the revolutionary government invite all dear compatriots, whether Pashtun, Tajek, Uzbek, Turkmen, Hazara, Baluchi, Nuristani and other nationalities and tribes of Afghanistan, to fight unitedly against the enemies of the homeland and our revolution, those who are striving to return Afghanistan to the past, to the Middle Ages, to poverty, misfortune and backwardness.

You, as free individuals with full rights in our country; you, Muslims with faith, must take your positions consciously and without hesitation in the common ranks of the defenders of revolution like thousands of other patriots; join the ranks of the brave armed forces, national sarandoy, courageous revolutionary defenders, for the struggle against the enemies of the people and homeland, against the enemies of Islam, freedom, justice and progress. Thus, you will secure the prosperity and blossoming of the homeland and a happy and comfortable future for your children -- these builders of the new Afghanistan.

The party and the revolutionary government invite all patriots to unite in accordance with the platform of the common objective of struggle and work for the glorious future in the name of progress, blossoming, welfare and tranquillity of our beloved homeland.

Long live our united homeland, revolutionary Afghanistan. We will gain victory. [end recording]

BRIEFS

USSR AID -- The USSR will grant the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan eighty thousand tons of wheat, ten thousand tons of flour, a quantity of woolen scarfs, cotton textiles and other consumer goods worth twenty million rubles as gratis aid next year. An agreement to this effect has been concluded between the Ministry of Commerce and the commercial representative of the Soviet Union on the basis of the signed agreement of 14 Dec. 1980 between the two countries. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 20 Dec 81 LD]

VETERINARY AGREEMENT WITH USSR -- Kabul, 16 Dec (BAKHTAR) -- A protocol on cooperation in the field of veterinary was concluded here yesterday between the DRA and the USSR. On the basis of this protocol the Soviet side will supply during March-September 1982 apart from medicines and veterinary appliances 1,260,000 doses of various vaccines. It will also equip central veterinary clinics and ten sub-clinics in the district of Kabul Province with medical equipments, medicines and vehicles. Clinics of Qandahar, Herat and Baghlan Provinces will also be similarly equipped. Three Soviet veterinary specialists will also be coming to Afghanistan under the protocol. All these assistance will be given by the USSR on a gratis basis. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 17 Dec 81 LD]

CSSR DELEGATION MEETS OFFICIALS -- Kabul, 19 Dec (BAKHTAR) -- Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of Politburo of PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, met with Dr. Milan Kosak, minister of culture of Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and members of his delegation. The Czechoslovak guest also met Dr. Anahita Ratebzad, member of Politburo of the PDPA CC and president of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of the DRA, today. Matters of mutual interest were discussed between the both sides in the meetings. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 20 Dec 81 LD]

KHAMENE'I ADDRESSES GROUND FORCES COMMANDERS

LD221900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Col Seyyed-Shirazi, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by all the commanders and deputies of the independent divisions of the ground forces, met this evening with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

According to the Central News Unit, the commander of the ground forces briefed the president on the situation on the battlefronts in the west and south of the country. Afterwards, Mr Khamene'i addressed commanders.

In part of his speech the president, while thanking the visitors, said: I thank you brothers on behalf of the Iranian nation; I must say that never before in the history of the armed forces, created from the heart of the nation, has there been so much sincerity and kindness between the nation and the armed forces; this, in fact, is the fruit of your endeavors.

The president added: Today, on the international political scene, the world respects our armed forces, as it should, because no other armed forces in the world, in our position, would have been able to stand against and resist the enemy. Today, in the world, we can see armed forces equipped with the most sophisticated technology being defeated by popular and revolutionary forces, while you brothers, who are not armed with such equipment and technology, have been able to continue this all-out war successfully for 1 and 1/2 years.

Mr Khamene'i then said: The factors affecting your successes, which have drawn the respect of the world, are the factors of faith, reliance on God, self-confidence and coordination between you and the people. These factors belong to you alone; no other armed force in the world possesses them.

Mr Khamene'i continued: Which army could stand so bravely against the flood of arms and ammunition pouring in for the enemy from every corner of the world? An army which receives nothing, makes do with what it has and fires it in the face of the enemy.

The president, after referring to the propaganda of enemies of the Islamic revolution, stated: It is true that radio propaganda is used against us in trying to hide this glory. But the world's intellectuals, including the responsible authorities of various governments of the world, concede that our armed forces are distinguished; although these people are unfair, nevertheless they accept the unique qualities of our armed forces. This, for you, is something of which you should be proud.

In another part of his speech, the president emphasized: You must be hopeful and be assured that the future belongs to you and the nation, which sees you as an example.

He added: It is with this hope that we have overcome all our difficulties and have moved forward; we are going to move forward even further. Just as you have experienced on the battlefields, so must you rely on God. You should never be disappointed by shortages. And you should know that a person who relies on God and who believes that God is truly behind him, can never be defeated.

GUARDS COMMANDER SPEAKS ON WAR, IRAQI MORALE

LD221956 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Mr Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in a press, radio and TV interview today replied to questions by domestic correspondents. In connection with the war imposed on Iran by Iraq he said: During the recent battle in Bostan nearly two truckloads of secret, military documents belonging to Saddam's declining army fell into our hands.

In some of these documents the Saddam forces' morale and effectiveness are described as being "extremely poor," admitting that their war intelligence machine is extremely weak.

Mr Reza'i added: The documents that fell into our hands explained that in carrying out operations all the reserve forces had been used and that a state of disarray could be seen among all forces and officers.

Referring to the morale of Saddam's army the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said: The Iraqi Army has no morale left to continue the fight against us. If they found out that we intend to attack a number of their forces they would go down to their shelters in order to give themselves up once the operations are over, so much so that during the past 2 weeks a group of them, among whom a number of high-ranking Iraqi Army officers could be seen, have come to us seeking asylum. For this reason Saddam has put forward the notion that if anyone is taken prisoner he will be killed by the Iranians. This is to force them to stand up and resist us without surrendering.

He also said: Our attacks are coupled with increasing defeats by the enemy and we know that their infantry forces have either been or are in the process of being exhausted since in Gilan-e Gharb they are pushing forward tank and APC crews.

In connection with the war, Mr Reza'i said: We give the hope to the people that Iraq no longer has the power to advance even a single span on the soil of our Islamic homeland and in the near future we shall be able to put an end to the war.

He added: In the coming operations, infantry divisions and corps battalions will enter the battles and, by the wish of God and the command of the imam, we will move forward until the destruction of Israel is achieved.

In connection with internal counterrevolution, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said: During the past month 250 hypocrites, mostly high-ranking members, have been captured and have given us a great deal of intelligence information.

He added: We warn the people that the problem of the hypocrites has not finished and we should remain vigilant and stand up to them with the utmost power.

TEHRAN REBUTS REPORTS ON U.S. ARMS, SPARE PARTS

GF221213 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The song about U.S. arms to the Islamic Republic is not new in the realm of rumors and verbal war. U.S. newspapers have written about that rumor several times, the most prominent of which was last year when the American hostages were released. At that time, U.S. and other newspapers spread the rumor that the release was made in exchange for advanced U.S. weapons for the Islamic Republic.

Public opinion will recall the propaganda conspiracy in which dozens of antagonistic radios participated and which reiterated the news that the U.S. press had announced. That was last year when the hostile war was being launched against the Islamic Republic. Today, after 15 months of Saddamist aggression, the Islamic Republic has become stronger and more invincible than ever, and more callous in resisting the Saddamist aggression. The soldiers of Islam have approached the outskirts of Iraqi border cities after having regained the majority of the usurped territories. Colonialist circles were shocked by that serious development on the war fronts. They mobilized all their facilities and efforts to foil the escalating Islamic march against aggression.

Meanwhile, regimes linked to the Saddamist aggression began to spread rumors and lies and to reiterate falsehoods and cheap words against Islam which is represented today by the Islamic Republican regime. On the other hand, European colonialist countries such as France and Italy attempted to save the Saddamist regime from the devastating blows dealt by the courageous men of Islam by sending their agent Saddam the most recent innovations of their arms factories, such as planes and tanks. In addition, U.S. newspapers played a major role in that ferocious attack. These newspapers not only try to undermine the successes of the soldiers of Islam in the liberated positions but also use the weapon of rumors that they used almost a year ago. They announced that Iran had asked the United States to deliver to Iran spare parts for F-14 planes that were agreed upon during the reign of the toppled shah.

The "train of rumor" moves on from one station to another -- from Washington to European newspapers to the radios and press of reactionary regimes of the region, such as the Saudi and Jordanian regimes. The objective behind this drive is clear. It is the same ogjective that these newspapers have striven to achieve but [words indistinct] of the CIA and international Zionism when they spread these rumors while receiving the American hostages. The objective of the American media then was to emphasize the return of U.S.-Iranian relations to their golden era. However, when there was nothing to prove that would happen, and when the Islamic Republic remained steadfast against the American temptations -- at the top of which were possible arms and spare parts transactions -- the weapon of the media operated by the CIA failed to realize its aim.

Today, after all the developments that the region has witnessed and the new lessons that the aggressive war offers, the CIA found itself in a situation calling for verbal war and rumors. Therefore, it suggested the CIA-run press repeat last year's captions and back up the CIA rumor with intellectual and material evidence.

Despite the tremendous dimensions of the new propaganda conspiracies, the Islamic Republic remained steadfast and unyielding against its enemies. The president of the republic, 'Ali Khamene'i, promptly denied these rumors, terming them part of the colonialist tactics to save the tumbling Saddamist regime.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 737

LD221730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Communique 737 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. Islam's valiant warriors, enjoying full superiority and holding the initiative, continue their battle against the aggressor Saddam's personnel.

In the Gilan-e Gharb region, the aggressor enemy is losing its positions, suffering heavy losses and casualties, and is being forced to retreat. During the past 24 hours, in the same region, our forces destroyed 2 enemy tanks, 5 vehicles, 1 mortar, 1 106-mm fieldgun and 5 trenches; approximately 200 Iraqi personnel were killed or injured. On another front in this region, our forces while repulsing and Iraqi Armed Forces counterattack, destroyed 8 Iraqi vehicles, 25 trenches and a considerable amount of Iraqi weaponry and ammunition. During these operations, 105 Iraqis were killed and a further 20 were injured.

In the Abadan region, the valiant gendarmerie fired on enemy positions and destroyed one Iraqi tank and its occupants and eight trenches. At least 10 Iraqis were killed in this operation. The navy's combatants destroyed a number of Iraqi warfare emplacements in the occupied sector of Khuninshahr, killing or injuring 15 Iraqi personnel.

The civilian sector of Abadan yesterday suffered enemy air and artillery attacks, resulting in the destruction of a number of houses and the martyrdom of a number of civilians. A number of civilians were also injured.

Exchanges of fire in the regions west of Dezful and west of Ahvaz continued; our forces, while maintaining their superiority and defending their positions, silenced the enemy's artillery fire and inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqis.

During engagements on 20 December on the southern and western fronts, 12 more of the army's combatants were martyred. Long live their path and memories.

2,000 IRAQIS KILLED DURING 12-DAY OPERATION

LD221844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Gilan-e-Gharb told a PARS correspondent that, according to the latest statistics, during the course of a successful operation, codenamed Daybreak, in the past 12 days a total of 2,000 enemy personnel were killed by the combatant forces of Islam. These casualties were inflicted on the enemy during the recapture of the Siah Kuh heights, [words indistinct] Bezan Ali, Kohaye Gach, [words indistinct].

The enemy losses included 1 brigade, 15 tanks, 3 artillery batteries, a large number of vehicles, 5 airplances and 1 helicopter. He added: During these operations, seven 75-calibre machineguns and four 106-mm fieldguns and a considerable number of light weapons and ammunition were taken by our forces as spoils of war.

Commenting on the effects of the victory resulting from the Daybreak operations, he said: The operations were very effective and resulted in the enemy's decision to transfer its forces from As-Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk to this region. Our forces, gaining the highest altitude in this region, have paved the road for a series of quick advances.

IRAQI VIOLATIONS OF ABADAN AIRSPACE NOTED

LD211756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] PARS reports that on three occasions today, at 1500, 1510, and 1613, intruding Iraqi aircraft violated Abadan's airspace and bombed parts of the city's residential areas. The report says that, thanks to the air defense fire of Islam's warriors, the intruding Iraqi aircraft, while fleeing, bombed part of the city's residential areas from a high altitude. As a result of this barbaric attack by Iraqi pilots, 15 innocent citizens of Abadan were injured and several homes were destroyed.

KURDS REPORTEDLY KILL 500 IN RECENT BATTLES

JN221829 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Bahdinani Kurdish 1230 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Baneh -- Fighting has successively been raging for the past 15 days in the Baneh-Sar Dasht region between the KDP peshmerga hero fighters and the honorable citizens in the region on the one hand and the oppressive forces of the Khomeyni regime on the other. The peshmerga fighters dealt painful blows to the enemy. Thus far, 500 enemy forces have been killed or wounded and their bodies still litter the battlefield.

Our reporter said that peshmerga fighters waged a 12-hour battle on 20 December against the enemy forces on the Sar Dasht road, inflicting grave losses on the enemy troops. The well-known mercenary (Hasan Shahinan) was killed and three peshmerga heroes were wounded during the operation.

Reports said that on 20 December the (Awarah) and (Mullah Ibrahim) peshmerga attacked the guards and mercenaries. The enemy sustained grave losses.

On 21 December, the peshmerga planted a mine on the (Hagardah Dulan) road. The mine went off, destroying an enemy Landrover.

AFP CITES PAPERS ON RECENT EXECUTIONS

NC211553 Paris AFP in English 1548 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 21 Dec (AFP) -- Twenty-two militants belonging to anti-government groups and "counter-revolutionary Kurdish movements" were executed last week, the newspaper ETTELA'AT reported today.

It said that 13 people accused of being responsible for clashes on the Naqadeh-Mahabad road and the center of Mahabad last month were executed Wednesday in the town of Urumiyeh in Western Azarbayjan Province.

The fighting had left more than 50 government troops and revolutionary guardsmen dead, the newspaper said.

It said that five people went before firing squads at Sanandaj in Kordestan Province on Tuesday and Wednesday. They included a "counter-revolutionary," a member of the left-wing Mojahedin-e Khalq, two collaborators with the Maoist Komeleh group and a militant with the Rastegari (worker's voice).

At Rasht in the north, a "liaison agent of the military branch of the Mojahedin" was executed Thursday. Three "counter-revolutionaries" went to their death in Khoramabad in the west and Qom, south of Tehran.

Meanwhile, three drug traffickers were executed Sunday at Hamadan in western Iran, according to the newspaper KEYHAN.

KEYHAN REPORTS ON EXECUTION OF MONARCHISTS

NC221220 Paris AFP in English 1212 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 22 Dec (AFP) -- Reza Hajj Marzban, a close associate of exiled Iranian former Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar, and 13 other monarchists were executed yesterday after being convicted of participation in a July 9 attempted coup last year, KEYHAN newspaper reported today.

The trial opened in Tehran on December 10. Mr Marzban was accused of being the "fully authorized representative of Shapur Bakhtiar in the group which organized the coup," the newspaper said.

The armed forces Islamic tribunal, chaired by Mohammad Reyshahri, also convicted Mr. Marzban of "facilitating the flight from Iran of counter-revolutionary elements, instructing the military personnel involved in the coup, and supplying the coup members with a bus."

The monarchists included Zia' Modarres, secretary-general in Tehran of the late shah's Rastakhiz Party, and Manuchehr Salimi, a member of the National Assembly under the shah.

FREE VOICE OF IRAN: 28 STUDENTS EXECUTED

NC181807 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 18 Dec 81

[Text] The mullahs' antinational regime has executed 30 more of its opponents. A Free Voice of Iran correspondent in Paris, quoting a spokesman of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, reports that during the past few days the executioners of Khomeyni's regime executed 28 students in Tehran. These adolescents were arrested by revolution guards on charges of opposing the Islamic regime and protesting the teaching methods in schools.

They were executed in Tehran's Evin Prison after being tortured. The bodies of 11 of them were not handed over to their families.

The report states that because of signs of torture on the bodies of these adolescents, Khomeyni's antinational regime has secretly buried them in the special cemetery for executed people. The bodies of 17 other executed adolescents were turned over to their families in return for the cost of the bullets. The spokesman for the Mojahedin-e Khalq in Paris also announced that two pregnant women were executed some days ago in Tehran and Arak.

EMIGRE FRONT JOINS BANI-SADR'S COUNCIL

NC221330 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (AFP) -- The National Democratic Front of Iran, a group of progressive intellectuals formed after the 1979 Iranian revolution, said today it was joining the National Resistance Council founded by former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and left-wing Mojahedin leader Mas'ud Rajavi. In a statement published here, the front explained its decision by the need to unite "all democratic forces" against the Islamic regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN GIVES NEWS CONFERENCE

LD221217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mr Tavakkoli, minister of labor and social affairs and government spokesman, gave a press, radio and television conference this morning attended by domestic reporters. He answered questions on various issues.

First, regarding long-term and short-term government projects for the future aimed at increasing the productivity of heavy industries and mines, Mr Tavakkoli said: Due to our dependence on industry, we import more than 95 percent of the raw material for industry; this does not conform to our policy of having a healthy and correct industry. [sentence as heard] He said: With the approval of the Economic Council, the Ministry of Industries and Mines is engaged in a quick appraisal, so that decisions can be made on closing down industries harmful to the economy and expanding necessary industries.

Concerning the determining of the country's economic infrastructure, he said: In the near future the government will specify an overall plan -- in ten industrial groups -- within the framework of Islam, so that it can be presented to the Majlis. He added: We hope the status of our economy will be determined next spring.

Referring to power cuts, the government spokesman said: Some economic shortcomings, in transportation and fuel, the lack of imports of some spare parts, excessive use of electrical equipment and the increase in electricity consumption, are the reasons for these power cuts, which will be overcome in the long run by increasing the number of power stations and doubling the number of power transmission lines.

Concerning the individuals in Bahrain and the false propaganda by imperialistic media concerning this issue, the government spokesman said: We did not send any Iranians to Bahrain to create disorder there. He added: By making a fuss over such issues, they try to cover up the aggression by the regime occupying Jerusalem against the Golan Heights, the blows dealt by America against Libya, the defeat of Fahd's plan at the Fes conference in Morocco and our recent military victories in the south and west of the country. He said: While we do not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, we support the world's oppressed. He added: We do not believe that anybody should interfere in another country by force. The clamor is aimed at distracting the attention of the Arab nations away from Israel's crimes. We warn such governments that it is not in their interest to divorce themselves from true Islam and their own nations and to give aid to Saddam. He said: Our combative nation does not need such interference and we reject interference; Iran does not need such behavior.

Regarding the formation of a cooperation council in the Persian Gulf and the government's view on this, Mr Tavakkoli said: This is aimed at giving America a foothold in the region; these councils, formed by the heads of some countries -- those countries should know they should not follow Iraq and America because the Ba'thist regime of Iraq will perish soon and America's influence will be cut short. We welcome cooperation between all Muslim countries, provided the planners are their nations themselves.

He also denied the rumors concerning the purchase by Iran of spare parts for F-14 planes from the United States. He said: Under no circumstances do we intend to buy anything from America.

Concerning allegations by the Iraqi regime on the execution of Iraqi POW's by Iran, he said: Although the Iraqis kill our revolution guards after they capture them and bother our civilians whom they captured in the early stages of the war, we are Muslims and POW's are not killed in Islam. We act in accordance with Islam; these are straws which Iraq is clutching in order to save itself in case there is any future difficulty concerning the Iranian POW's whose names the Iraqi Government has already given -- and whom it might have already killed. [sentence as heard]

He then commented on the completion of the plan for a ministry of cooperatives and its submission to the Majlis, and the plan for changing the country's administrative system and the duties of the deputy prime minister in the affairs of institutions.

NVOI WARNS OF INTERNAL DANGER TO REVOLUTION

TA221348 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 18 Dec 81

[Unattributed commentary: "The Imam -- The Banner of Irreconcilable Struggle Against World-Devouring America"]

[Excerpt] To what tricks and ploys have world-devouring America and its Iranian dregs, headed by the compromising liberals, not resorted and continue to resort, during the 3 years of the Islamic Republic of Iran's checkered life, in order to divert Iranian public opinion from their crimes and save themselves from the hard blows of the million-strong masses? Raising the issue of the Soviet Union in order to negate the aggressive America, and raising the issue of the movement of struggling Muslims [jonbesh-e Mosalmanan-e mobarez], the Tudeh, the Feda'iyan and so forth in order to defend the dependent, plundering capitalists and the usurping, criminal and godless feudalists, are among the ploys of these foes of the independence and freedom of Iran -- ploys which we have witnessed constantly from the outset of the revolution's victory until the present.

What in this connection has caused and continues to cause the deep regret of the free Iranian people is the bitter fact that certain circles have been affected by this line, also primarily because of the fanaticism, superficiality, mental prejudice and monopolism of these circles. Many of our country's prominent religiopolitical figures are correct when they consider fanaticism, superficiality and mental prejudice as leprosy on the body of the revolution. By continuing this line, superficial and monopolist circles -- whether wittingly or unwittingly -- aid in weakening the revolution, in dispersing the sincere followers of the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line, in sowing discord and hostility, or at least in separating the people and creating discontent and despair among them. They stain the true face of the revolution and alter and discredit the true Muslim revolutionaries who are the followers of the imam's line. Although the danger for the revolution emanating from the ill-considered and illogical measures of these circles is not an insignificant danger, the slogans "Death to U.S. imperialism" and "Death to the great Satan" still remain the current slogans of the always-on-the-scene Iranian people. As the imam of the nation has said: These alert and always-on-the-scene people are all prepared to die, but are not prepared to be under the domination of aggressive America.